

# Parliamentary Notes.

**Wednesday 8th.**—The Council threw out the Fair Rent Bill. In the House, Mr. Taiwhanga declared his intention of stone-walling the Native Bills. Mr. Fish condemned the Maori legislation as nauseating, and objected to the proposed appearance of Native chiefs before the bar of the House.—The San Francisco mail service is to be considered after the Native questions have been settled, and it is to be hoped the result will be favourable. As to the desirableness of maintaining regular and rapid communication with the United States, there can be no doubt, and anything done to bring about a contrary condition of things must prove retrogressive and injurious to the colony. Nothing can be more worthy of condemnation than will be any attempt to make the occasion one for a display of any revenge or other ill-feeling of the South against the North. In this matter the interests of the whole colony are concerned.—A movement is on foot to induce Government to undertake the settlement of industrious labouring families on small blocks of land. This is a step in the right direction, and if it be adopted we may hope that the traditional policy of all Governments of the Colony has been departed from, that is the design of maintaining a monopoly of the lands, so that by means of cheap labour, great fortunes, to be spent in Europe, might be realised by favoured individuals. It is by keeping this steadily in view, that statesmen have reduced the country to the depressed place in which it now stands, and electors have enabled them to do so, by returning incapable or interested men on party cries or flimsy pretences, or on anything rather than an assurance of their fitness, or devotion to the public good. The electors of the colony have hitherto betrayed their own cause, and proved themselves to be either completely indifferent, or most easily hood-winked and befooled. They have, as a whole, been represented by men devoted to their own interests only, and each making a catpaw of the constituency for the promotion of his own private ends. But until the traditional Government policy of land monopoly, cheap labour, and absentee millionaires, has been finally and once for all exploded, by means of an honest and capable legislature, returned by sensible and clear-sighted electors, there is no chance of the country's being placed in a progressive position. This proposal to settle the labouring population on the soil, however, seems something like a more hopeful departure, and its success is much to be wished for.

**Thursday, 9th.**—In reply to a question the Premier said that Government had received official intimation that the Midland railway contract had been signed.—The Premier also said that a cablegram had been received from the Mayor of Christchurch, who was in Melbourne, contradicting the report as to the deficient display of New Zealand minerals in the exhibition.—The Native Land Bill was strongly opposed in committee by Mr. Taiwhanga,—who spoke for the most part in Maori.

**Friday, 10th.**—The Native Land Bill was vigorously stonewalled by Mr. Taiwhanga assisted by Mr. Taipua. The Native chiefs Kemp and Hiawera were heard at the bar of the House, pleading for the postponement of the matter until it had been considered by the great Native meeting to be held next year at Waitangi.

**Tuesday 14th.**—The House decided that a libel on the Hon. Mr. Larnach, published by the *Auckland Herald*, was a breach of privilege, and passed a motion sympathising with the hon. member.—In reply to a question, the Premier stated that Government hoped to be able to make some proposals as a substitute for the Fair Rent Bill rejected by the Council. The rejection of the Bill in question, it may be added, was one of the most flagrant pieces of injustice ever perpetrated in the Parliament of this colony, and has, at least, prolonged a most unfair and harassing condition of things. It has prevented the relief of men, who have deserved well of the colony, and whose position is much worse than that of settlers of nothing like their standing in the country. If the Government be sincere in desiring to help them, and the manner in which the Bill was rejected in the Council makes this in some degree doubtful, they will not delay in bestirring themselves.

Mr. A. J. White, Octagon, Dunedin, is selling off, at greatly reduced prices, the remaining stock of the late Iron and Woodware Company. Valuable bargains are offered.

An almost unprecedented opportunity is offered to the people of Christchurch and its vicinity in the Messrs. Lonargan's sale of the stocks of Howarth and Co. and Dugdale, Whitehead and Co. Goods in this instance will be sold retail at and under wholesale prices, and individuals and households may provide themselves with indispensable requisites at comparatively nominal prices. In many instances a reduction is even made on the wholesale prices, and this should be fully appreciated now that the new tariff is in force.

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